

The Adam Sager House
Below Springtown
Washington Township, Morris County, New Jersey
MIDDLE VALLEY VICINITY

HABS-NJ-626

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS
N.J.
14, MIDWAY.
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The Adam Sager House
Below Springtown
Washington Township, Morris County, New Jersey

Owner: Leonard D. and Etabel H. Williams

Date of Erection: Ca. 1795-1800, with annex ca.
1870

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Adam Sager (ca. 1750-1831)

Present Condition: Original, well maintained

Number of Stories: One and one-half and cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - stone masonry, concealed by
comparatively modern stucco

Interior walls - lath and plaster on wood
studding

Chirney - brick built into inside of gable end
wall

Roof - gable, with modern asphalt shingling.
Box cornice probably not original

Historical Data:

On the northwest side of the road from the
village of Springtown down to Pleasant Grove in
Washington Township and about a half mile below the
crossing of County Road Number 9 stands the house
surveyed.*

*Further down, in the forks of the road is the Philip
Derenberger House of similar date and design, likewise
modern stucco finished, surveyed as NJ-633.

Its builder, Adam Sager, one of the German settlers in this region had married 12 May 1772 Ann Elizabeth Derenberger as his first wife and had issue: John, Mary who married 9 February 1796 Philip Weise Jr., and Sarah who married George Trimmer Jr. The farm which he purchased by deed of 4 October 1792 from John Braithwaite was in the so-called Elijah Bond tract of 500 acres which had been taken up on 24 July 1751 by that party and later sold to John Braithwaite in April 1771.(a) Sager conveyed 50 acres thereof to his son John Sager by deed of 22 February 1802.

By a deed of 25 November 1819, this Adam Sager, of Washington Township, Morris County, (who evidently was the builder and first occupant of the house here considered) with his (second) wife Mary conveyed to a son-in-law, George Trimmer Jr. of the same place, for \$100 a tract of 2.22 acres there having a frontage of some 235 feet on the north west side of "the old road leading from Morristown to Easton" (locally, from Springtown to Pleasant Grove). Subsequently, by their deed of 28 March 1830 between the same parties, Trimmer purchased for \$1500 the 99½ acres which apparently surrounded that small house lot and extending along both sides of the road mentioned. Having so disposed of his real estate, Adam Sager evidently remained in the house with his daughter Mary and her husband until his death between 28 March and 11 May 1831, the dates of signing and of probate of his will in which only personal property is devised.(b)

(a) Theo. F. Chambers, The Early Germans of New Jersey, publ. 1895, pages 526, 537, 557, and 172.

(b) The will of Adam Sager of Washington Township, Morris County devises to wife Mary Sager a bond of same date given by Geo. Trimmer Jr. for \$500 and all household goods during her lifetime, to son John Sager an eight day clock, to (grand-daughter) Ameline Trimmer 6 sheep, a spinning wheel, bed, bedstead and bedding, 1 cow, to daughter Mary wife of Phillip Weise Jr. one-half of all property remaining after death of widow, and one-half to Adam Weise and Elizabeth wife of Simeon D. Bell equally.

George Trimmer Jr. abovenamed was born 21 December 1789, great grandson of Matthias and Martha (Nachbar) Drimmer of this German Valley, (Long Valley, Washington Township). (a) He was evidently occupying this house (formerly of his father-in-law Sager) when with his wife Sarah he conveyed it to Jacob Trimmer of the adjacent county of Hunterdon by deed of 19 March 1838 with the two tracts also purchased from his father-in-law Sager and a 15 acre lot addition on the southeast end of that farm. On 31 August 1839, Jacob D. Trimmer last named, being of Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, with wife Susan conveyed the same property to John Derenberger (Derreberry), whose homestead farm was adjacent on the northwest line and extended thence to the Belmont Hall property on Schooley's Mountain. The map of this part of Washington Township, Morris County as published in the County Atlas in 1868 shows the "J. Derreberry" house some distance next westward of the one here surveyed and shows P. S. Wise as occupant of the latter although Derrebury owned both at that time. In the atlas of 1878 the house is marked "Petty".

After the death of John Derenberger, and his wife, his heirs gave a deed of 2 April 1878 to John McWilliams of the same place conveying to him "the Trimmer Farm" of 155 acres bounded by lands of William Derenberger, P. S. Weise and others," for \$4862.42, being the house here considered. McWilliams, with wife Mary, being still of this township and supposedly occupying the house, passed it to Hiram Petty of Mansfield Township, Warren County, by deed of 20 March 1880, at \$3500 for the 115 acres, describing the tract as "the farm called the Trimmer Farm with all and singular the Houses, Buildings, trees" etc.

On 29 Dec. 1902, the same farm was conveyed by the sheriff from Hiram to John D. Petty, and on 16 February 1933 the executors of the latter's heir or assignee, Robert D. Petty late of New York City, deceased, transferred the farm to Charles C. Ort of Hackettstown, Warren County, New Jersey.

The last named sold it to Adam J. Fisher and wife Ella E. Fisher of Palisade Park, Bergen County, Ne Jersey, on 5 May 1934, and they in turn passed it to Leonard D. Williams and wife Etabel H. of Plainfield, N. J., describing it as lying on both sides of the "Great Road leading from Springtown toward Pleasant Grove," in Washington Township, Morris County, and the last named are the present owners 1939.

Bibliography:

A search of title in Morris County Land and Probate records by Cornelius McPhillips, H.A.B.S. abstractor

Leuris D. Cook
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

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